

REMARKS

The specification is amended at paragraph [0066] to recite that the clamp assembly will preferably maintain 100% of the applied load. Applicants respectfully submit that the amendment to the specification does not add new subject matter since the addition does not change the patentable features of the prop of the invention but merely recited a non-limiting performance criteria.

Based on the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request admission of the amendment to the specification.

Claims 1-15 are in the instant application and subject to an election requirement. The Office Action states that claims 1-10 and 12-13 are generic, and alleges that the remaining claims are directed to the following patentably distinct species of the claimed invention:

Species I drawn to Fig. 10 (compressible sleeves);

Species II drawn to Fig. 4 (mechanical jack); and

Species III drawn to Fig. 11 (manual jack).

Applicants elect, with traverse, the species of Fig. 10, which is covered by claim 11, and will, therefore, proceed with claims 1-13.


Applicants respectfully submit that the features of Applicants' non-limiting embodiments shown in Figs. 4, 10, and 11 are extensions of the invention recited in claims 1-10, 12, and 13. More particularly, claim 5 recites, among other things, that the prop of claim 1 further includes a jack interface, which provides the nexus for the mechanical and manual jacks recited in claims 14 and 15 to be a further limitation of the features of the prop and not a species of the invention.

Based on the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the election requirement and consideration of claims 1-15.

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This Amendment represents a sincere effort to place this case in condition for allowance. In the event issues remain, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned before further action is taken on the case.

Respectfully submitted,
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